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AN OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL CAPACITY IN SELECTED ECA MEMBER STATES

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. At the Fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21-28 March 1988, the ECA secretariat presented a document entitled "Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows: statistical deficiencies and recommendations" (E/ECA/PSD.5/13). The conference recommended to conduct country-by-country assessments of the state of national statistical services and to revise the document on the basis of the findings. It was further recommended that such national assessments should be a collaborative effort of the directors of national statistical services and ECA, and address issues such as terms of reference of statistical services structure, staffing, timeliness of publications, statistical deficiencies and material and technical assistance required (E/ECA/CM.14/19). Funding for carrying out the assessments was provided through the UNDP/IBRD/ECA project "Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows in Africa" RAF/86/058.

2. In undertaking the assessment exercise, thirty two countries were covered by ECA. These countries are: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. A questionnaire was prepared and sent to all forty five sub-saharan countries for completion. It included items on the institutional arrangements of the national statistical service (NSS), its organizational structure, staffing and budget. It further asked for the statistical production, outputs accomplished and modalities of dissemination, as well as data processing facilities and their capacity. In addition, countries were requested to state major problems affecting the performance of the national statistical service. Missions were undertaken to those countries which had agreed to participate in the assessment programme. The information from the questionnaire was discussed and complemented during the country missions. On this basis detailled reports of the statistical capacity of the countries covered were prepared.

4. This report presents a summary of the major problems on statistical capacity as observed in the thirty two countries, covering the institutional arrangements, statistical production, human resources, budget and technical assistance. Additional information from other ECA missions to these countries has also been utilized to supplement the individual country reports.

B. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. Organizational location of the National Statistical Office

5. It should be recalled that in document ECA/STAT/DM.5-STPA/87/7) presented to the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA), most of the National Statistical Offices in Africa were under the authority of the Ministry of Planning. In this survey, out of 32 countries covered 17 (55 percent) are under the Ministry of Planning zhile 8 (25 percent) are attached to the Ministry of Finance and Planning. Ministry of Planning and Cooperation or Ministry of Planning and Transport. The remaining 7 (22 percent) of them are located in the Ministry of Finance and Economy (2 ministeries) or the Office of either the Prime Minister or the President (5 ministeries).

6. It should be noted that, in English-speaking countries, most of those statistical offices in the Ministry of Finance and Planning or in the office of either Prime Minister or President are still under the authority of planning directorate which is also located in the same office. In French-speaking countries, with a few exceptions, the "Direction de la Statistique" is directly under the authority of the Minister, Prime Minister or the President.

7. However, the location of the statistical office, although important, is not the dominant factor in determining the efficiency of the office. Rather, it is the quality of the leadership, especially its flexibility in iniating action, which is of greatest relevance.

2. Statistical Legislation and Co-ordination

8. All 32 countries covered in the survey have some kind of legislation relating to statistics. All of them have a law empowering the National Statistical Office to collect, analyse and disseminate statistical information. However, 20 countries have an act relating to the establishment of a National Statistical Office and 11 countries a body co-ordinating all statistical activities in the countries.

9. Statistical producer-user committees could be one of the major means for co-ordinating statistical activities and for disseminating statistical production. Out of the 32 countries, 11 (34 percent) have formal statistical producer-user committees. However, in the case of six out of these eleven, the committees are non operational. Informal statistical producer-user

committees are found in 10 countries (31 percent). The remaining 11 (34 percent) countries have no such arrangements. This implies that approximatively, one third of the countries run their National Statistical Offices without any form of co-ordination within their countries.

10. The absence of such legislqtion has weakened the role of the National Statistical Offices in controlling and co-ordinating statistical activities in the country. The co-ordination of such activities has depended heavily on the initiative of the national statistical office as well as the co-operation of the other statistical agencies within the countries.

11. The creation of informal producer-user committees has been one of the major means of co-ordination of statistical activities. However, this has been effective only when it is backed by high quality leadership and good management in the statistical system.

3. Organizational structure

12. A well-organized National Statistical Service is a perequisite for relevant, timely and high quality statistics. The organizational structure in many countries is based on a mixture of subject-matter and function. A few of them are completely centralized (5) while the majority have centrally-based national statistical office and other statistical agencies in other government ministries and departments and/or regional offices. There is no one country in the survey with a completely decentralized system.

13. In most cases, National Statistical Service as a regular data collection agency has transfered some of its activities to other statistical units created within other ministries and departments and also in the parastatal sector which is better suited for the purpose. Examples in this case, are statistical units in Education or Health ministries which have respectively responsibility of education and health statistics. Another clear example is the case where the Central Bank collects, compiles, and analyses all financial and balance of payments statistics.

14. One of the main reasons of this situation has been that NSS may not have the resources to meet the statistical demand of all the government ministries and departments. However, in all the countries they are ultimately responsible for major surveys and censuses, in particular population censuses, and in other fields if they are not involved directly, they are providing technical experties and other relevant advisory services. Whatever the case may be, NSS should play a co-ordinating role for all statistical activities if only, to avoid the duplication of activities.

C. STATISTICAL PRODUCTION

15. The main function of a National Statistical Service is that of statistical production. There is no single country in the survey that can claim to have a completely satisfactory system of statistical production. The main reasons behind this situation include, among other things, the absence of a work-programme, limited funds and the lack of equipment and of skilled and qualified personnel.

1. Data gaps

16. Many of the countries in the survey do not have any formalized programme of work. Only 14 countries (44 percent) were found to have a well documented work programme, especially those (8) participating in the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP). In the absence of a work programme, statistical priorities and performance are rather difficult to determine. This may be one of the major reasons for an often unbalanced statistical production: there is a heavy concentration on economic statistics followed by demographic statistics, then social statistics. There is hardly any effort to generate statistics on environment and energy partly because there are new areas of statistics.

17. In the field of economic statistics, most of the countries (17 or 53 percent) are experiencing severe data gaps in many areas. For example, in national accounts a number of countries do not have adequate break-down. The estimates are provided only at aggregate level. The same is true for agricultural, industrial and trade statistics if they exist at all. Similarly, up-to-date and detailed information is lacking on employment and price statistics. Major indicators on cost-of-living are provided either at aggregate level, or limited to the major urban areas only. The rural areas are not covered at all. In addition, major indicators are only available for the modern sector. the informal sector is not covered at all.

18. With regard to population and demographic statistics, it is encouraging to note that all the countries, except, one have undertaken either a population and housing census or a major demographic survey within the last ten years. In the absence of complete coverage of vital registration in most of the countries, such censuses and surveys are the major sources for estimating demographic indicators for national planning.

19. In 21 countries (65 percent) health and education statistics are far from adequate. Where they are available they are only given at aggregate level. In some cases, even break-down by gender is not available. The coverage does not even extend to the private sector while geographical coverage by urban/rural is not provided.

20. There is no doubt that part of the reason for these data gaps and this imbalance, is the absence of a statistical work programme as well as producer-user committees. There is also the fact that the NSS have continued to operate and function in the same way for a long time without taking new challenges and objectively looking at the current demands of statistical information; the statistics produced in NSS are producer-driven rather than user or demand-oriented.

21. Complaints have been voiced about the low priority given by NSS and the low budgetary provision resulting for this. One of the major reasons is also the absence of a work programme. One way of demonstrating to governments the effectiveness of the NSS is to present a work programme budget. It should be detailed enough to indicate the content and dates of planned outputs and the resources required to carry out the work; this allows the government to judge whether the funds required are justified.

22. It should further be noted that analytical capacity in most of NSS is lacking. This exercice has been left to either the academic institutions or international agencies. Detailed statistical analysis is usually not undertaken. The inter-relationships that may exist between various socio-economic indicators are not explored. Such an exercise would be very useful for data users in planning and decision-making.

2. Data processing

23. One of the major bottlenecks for generating timely statistical information is the inadequate endorsement with data processing capacity. The main reasons for this are inadequate hardware and related software, limited qualified staff and poor maintenance support.

24. One of the main issues is whether the NSS have their own data processing unit. Out of 32 countries, 24 (75 percent) of them have their own data processing centre. With regard to adequacy of computing hardware 19 (59 percent) are well-equipped while 5 of them are poorly equipped. On the issue of computer software 21 (66 percent) of 32 countries are equipped with adequate statistical and related software for data processing. Out of the remaining 11, 6 have limited software while the other 5 have serious problems.

25. As far as staffing is concerned only 11 countries have adequate and well-qualified data processing personnel. Ten of the countries are severely handicaped while the remaining 11 have qualified personnel for data processing work.

26. With regard to maintenance support, 18 countries have no problems with service and maintenance of the data processing equipment. Two countries reported very frequent break-downs while the other four faced frequent break-downs with limited maintenance support.

3. Data dissemination

27. Data dissemination through publications and other means is the main indicator of statistical output of the NSS. Data users judge the performance of a statistical office by the quality, timeliness and volume of the statistical information published. The release of such information depends on many factors including logistical and management support, data processing facilities and especially availability of printing facilities.

28. The presence of printing equipment within a statistical office facilitates speedy the printing of statistical output. Out of the 32 countries, 18 or 56 percent have in-house printing equipment. However, three of them were not operating due to lack of staff and other secondary supplies for printing. The remaining 14 countries relied either on the Central government printer or on private printers for the publication of their statistical output.

29. Due to the problems of printing facilities, a number of the national statistical offices have resorted to the provision of producing computer print-outs and diskettes to data users as a quick mean of disseminating staristical information. The number of countries currently doing this are 12 (38 percent) out of 32 covered in the survey. There are also 5 countries which conduct seminars/workshops to discuss the results of major censuses and surveys.

30. It should be noted that timely publication is known to be one of the means of judging the performance of a national statistical office. Some countries are still facing problems and produce their publications with a very serious time lag. Nine of the countries have their publications released with a time lag of more than 5 years. Most of the others produce their publications with a time lag ranging between one and four years.

31. The unavailability of printing facilities (equipment, staff...) in many of the NSS has created problems with the production of statistical publications. Part of the reason for the long delays in the release of publications is actually attributable to problems related to printing. The use of the government printer for statistical publication has not been very helpful. Resort to private printers has involved more funds and those resources are not readily available.

D. HUMAN RESOURCES

1. Staffing

32. All the countries (except one) covered in the survey have problems with regard to statistical personnel. 29 countries are faced with shortages of qualified professional staff. This shortage is particularly acute in data processing and specialised areas of statistics such as national accounts. A number of countries (24) also suffer from a lack of middle-level statistical personnel. In addition many countries do not have a programme of staff recruitment, development and training. Furthermore, because of poor conditions of service, a number of countries are faced with a serious problem of staff turnover, particularly at the professional level.

33. The inadequacy of professional staff in the statistical offices has resulted in (a) insufficient number of staff to adequately carry out the statistical programmes, (b) un imbalance of staff allocation among the various units; and (c) in some cases, too much reliance on expatriate advisors and international experts. All, excepr tive countries covered in the survey had unfilled posititions in the established posts both professional and middle levels.

35. The lack of professionals in specialized areas has jeopardised the statistical analytical capacity of many statistical offices. The problem could be partially alleviated by conducting in-house training for example in the use of micro-computers for the professional statisticians; this has worked well in a few countries where the micro-computers and related software are available.

36. The situation with regard to supporting staff is more satisfactory. Out of the 32 countries, 23 have adequate resources in this respect while the remaining 9 do not have enough supporting staff to carry out their statistical activities. The issue of supporting staff is linked to the problem of logistical as well as budgetary support. Countries

with poor logistical support for statistical activities, also have serious shortages of support staff. Likewise, countries which have experienced budgetary cuts have tended to reduce the number of supporting staff and rather retained the professional and middle-level cadres.

37. As noted earlier, poor conditions of service in some countries of the statistical offices have resulted in high turnover rates for the staff, particularly those at the professional level. Out of the 32 countries, five are experiencing very serious outflows of their trained staff, while eleven are facing a less severe problem. The remaining sixteen can be described as having no serious problems. However, it should be noted that because of the demand for data processing personnel in the countries, this is the area that is most affected. Professional staff are being hired to more lucrative jobs outside the civil service. The statistical offices, having invested in the training of these professionals, find themselves on the losing end.

2. Staff recruitment, Development and Training

38. It should be noted that the countries are having staffing problems partly because of the absence of a programme of staff recruitment, development and training. Usually professional staff are recruited directly after completing an university first degree or its equivalent in statistics or in related subjects. Some countries do not have facilities for professional level training in statistics. As a result, university graduates in other areas are recruited and are then provided with either on-the-job training or post-graduate training in the relevant areas of statistics.

39. It was also noted that in some countries where academic institutions provide professional level training, the fresh graduate can hardly cope with the type of work performed in the Statistical Offices. This has been related to the type of training offered at those institutions which is often regarded as too theoretical. Graduates had to be given some orientation and on-the-job training before they performed their statistical duties effectively.

40. Hardly any statistical offices reported a satisfactory situation regarding middle-level statistical staff. Again, the main problem has been that of training. Out of the 17 French-speaking countries covered by the survey, only 6 have training facilities for middle-level cadre and no one has conducted in-house training. As regard, the English-speaking countries, out of 15 countries, 11 are conducting some kind of on-the-job-training. It should be noted, however, that in a number of countries, middle-level personnel have been provided with further

additional training and up-graded to professional level. The turn-over rate of such professionals is very low. Most of them have tended to stay with the statistical office after attending professional level training.

41. Staff development programmes have usually been linked to schemes of service. It has already been noted that the conditions of service in many statistical offices are rather poor. This is demonstrated by the fact that 20 countries do not have a staff development programme. The remaining countries have a programme which do however function properly. The operational problems for some of those programmes are due partly to budgetary constraints or to poor management. Schemes of services in some countries are either out of date or not properly developed. As a result staff morale is rather low when it comes to being considered for advancement in the service.

3. Managerial capacity

42. The performance of the National Statistical Services depends to a large extent on the managerial capability of the offices themselves. Many of the countries covered in the survey are faced with problems of managerial capability. Fifteen out of the 32 countries have a statistical system that is well-managed. Then others have serious problems with the management of the National Statistical Service. The remaining 7 are facing one problem or another related directly to management.

43. In most cases the senior members of staff in the statistical offices have little or no experience at all in administration and management. As a result of this, the management of statistical programmes becomes rather poor. The image of the statistical offices, therefore is tarnished. There are some National Statistical Offices which are equiped with all the necessary resources and yet their statistical output is not satisfactory. Investigations have indicated that the major reasons for such a situation is poor management of such offices.

44. There are situations where the senior members of staff in the statistical offices have never been given a change to manage major statistical programmes or activities. Everything lies with the director of the statistical office. There does not exist a proper delegation of authority. In the absence of the director, everything, other than routine statistical activities, almost remains at a standstil. Such a situation has diminished the morale of the senior statistical professionals and even affected the performance of the whole office.

45. Some statistical offices have a system of convening regular meetings of all senior members of the office, where all matters relating to the statistical activities, their problems and progress, are discussed. This has helped a great deal in improving the confidence and managerial skills of the senior statistical professionals. At the same time, some countries conduct short-term courses in management and administration for all senior civil servants. The senior members of staff in the statistical offices are also considered and participate in such courses.

E. BUDGET

46. Any National Statistical Service without an adequate budget will face problems in performing its functions. A number of countries in the survey are faced with such a problem. Only 13 or 41 percent of them are allocated adequate funds from the government for their statistical activities. The remaining, 59 percent of them are not in a position to undertake all statistical functions because of budgetary constraints.

47. Government funds are allocated for personnel emoluments, logistical support, census and survey undertaking, procurement of equipment and training. Depending on the nature of the statistical activities such funds can be allocated under either recurrent or development/capital expenditure. Most of the countries covered have no unique problems with regard to the provision of funds for personnel emoluments. Any such problems are usually felt by all the government departments.

48. However, there are constraints with regard to the other areas of expenditure. On logistical support 14 (44 percent) of the countries do not have adequate logistical support for their statistical offices. In fact six of them are facing a critical problems in this area.

49. Similarly, a number of the statistical offices face problems with regard to funds for conducting censuses and surveys. Out of the 32 countries, 16 or 50 percent of them have budgetary constraints for conducting censuses and surveys. Many of these countries have relied on technical assistance for their major censuses and surveys.

50. The situation is the same with regard to funds for training and statistical manpower development. Nineteen (19) countries are not provided with funds for training purposes. They rely entirely on technical assistance for this purpose.

51. Most of the countries also face similar problems in relation to the provision of funds for the acquisition of equipment. The situation is particularly serious with data processing equipment. It was discovered that all existing micro-computers in most of the statistical offices were acquired through projects supported by technical assistance.

52. The budget allocated by the government to the statistical office has, in many occasions, not been adequate for carrying out all the statistical activities, for logistical support, survey and census undertaking, acquisition of equipment and training. The government would be in better position to assess the financial needs of a statistical office if a work programme is available.

53. In the absence of a work programme budget, it has been difficult to assess the effectiveness of the statistical services. It has not, for example, been possible to identify shortfalls in the statistical output that were a result of subsequent reductions from the approved budget. On the basis of a work programme budget, it would be possible for the statistical services to enumerate the final outputs in relation to the budget actually made available and therefore indicating the consequences of the budget reductions.

F. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

54. It should be noted that all the countries covered in the survey have received technical assistance of one form or another for the support of statistical activities. There are a few countries in which certain statistical projects cannot be undertaken without external funding support.

55. All the countries have received external assistance of some kind in order to carry out their major censuses and surveys. Support has been in the form of expatriate personnel, logistics, equipment and training. For example, there is no country which has undertaken a population and housing census without external support in at least one of these areas.

56. At the same time, there are a few countries whose statistical operations are still dependent on expatriate support. This is particularly so in the technical and specialized areas of statistics. Out of 32 countries, 23 (72 percent) are still dependent on expatriate personnel to perform some of the statistical duties. The main reason for this phenomenon is of course the inadequacy of locally qualified statistical personnel.

57. As far as general logistical support is concerned, half of the countries depend on external assistance for the smooth operation of the statistical activities. Again, this is because of limited funds from the government.

58. Technical assistance for training is provided in various forms. This can be in the form of fellowships for training within or outside the country or support for in-service training, or even support for workshops and seminars. All the countries have received external assistance for training fellowships, in particular for post-graduate training in technical and other specialized areas of statistics. A number of countries have also received technical support for in-service training. Out of the 32 countries, 12 or 38 per cent are still receiving this support. With regard to support for workshops and seminars, it should be noted that all the countries have benefited from such assistance.

59. It has already been noted earlier that most of the countries depend heavily on external assistance for the acquisition of equipment. There is no single country that has purchased all its entire equipment utilizing locally-provided funds. In some countries equipment like computer hardware has always been provided through technical assistance. It should be noted that the main reason for this has been the limited foreign exchange available in the countries. As a result, any statistical projects undertaken through external support has a component for the provision of equipment.

60. There is no question about the great role played by donor agencies and countries in the support of statistical activities in the African countries. This support has been in all areas including logistical support.

61. Training at all levels can hardly be undertaken without technical assistance. The situation is much more obvious with the provision of fellowships in technical and specialized areas of statistics.

62. The issue is what will happen when such technical assistance is no longer forthcoming. A number of the sttistical offices will have to cut down a number of their statistical activities. Some projects will have to be abandoned. Clearly this is not a healthy situation for the statistical services.

C. CONCLUSION

63. This paper has reviewed the various factors and problems affecting the performance of the National Statistical Services. It is clear from the assessments undertaken in the thirty two countries that there is no area which has no problem. It appears the problems run accross the board. African countries can no longer afford to neglect their statistical services and there is an urgent need for action to be taken jointly by the various actors (government national statistical services, users....) involved in the provision of good statistical services.

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PLAN OF ACTION FOR STATISTICAL DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA IN THE 1990s

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ANNEX DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION

INTRODUCTION

1. After three decades of statistical development in Africa an assessment of achievements, failures and their respective causes seemed called for - especially to develop a focus on tasks to be tackled up to the year 2000. The Fifth Session of the PSD in 1988 therefore requested ECA to undertake assessments of the national statistical capacity of all African countries. Such a comprehensive exercise was deemed necessary to determine whether progress had been made in the eighties to satisfy Africa's needs for data, whether efficient national statistical infrastructures existed and whether domestic and external resources had been optimally used. Widest consultations with African statisticians allowed to generate a picture of possible and desirable developments in the field of statistics in the nineties.

2. The results of 32 country assessments were presented in E/ECA/PSD.6/16 to this Sixth Session of the PSD. In reviewing these country reports it became clear that, despite different legal and administrative set-ups, common features and especially common problems would allow to summarize the conclusions and to present a general framework of recommendations. In order to provide a background for the discussion at this meeting of necessary action in the decade ahead, the ECA secretariat has also prepared a draft Plan of Action (Annex). Once further refined, it could become a framework for member States to rehabilitate their statistical services in the decade ahead.

3. Various actors will be called upon to establish or revitalize national capabilities for quantitative analysis: they range from the highest executive and legislative ranks to technical programme managers, but also include bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. Given the scope of problems affecting statistical services in Africa on one hand and the importance of a functioning system on the other, it will be crucial to obtain high-level political support for the rehabilitation effort. Once the Plan of Action is amended and if it is approved by this Sixth Session of the PSD, it would therefore be submitted to the ECA Conference of Ministers for its consideration.

I. THIRTY YEARS OF STATISTICS IN AFRICA

4. Upon closer scrutiny, the state of statistics in Africa at the end of the 1980s yields a mixed picture. Rather than proclaiming a uniform trend, it is therefore necessary to discuss major factors determining the quality and relevance of statistical production. Rather than recommending standard remedies, a range of possible scenarios for solving problems should, therefore, be considered.

5. The outcome of any evaluation of statistics in Africa depends on the time frame and the success criteria chosen. Compared to the situation immediately following independence, indigenous statistical production has certainly expanded. Substantial experience in the conducting and analysis of censuses and surveys and in the compilation of various statistics from administrative records has been acquired by most countries. Statisticians have been trained by the thousands and are now, even though not necessarily within official statistical services or in the public sector, performing valuable services in the countries. Many countries have become more self-reliant statistically and the number of expatriates working on long-term assignments in national statistical services has decreased. All in all, most countries - even if they need outside assistance for specific large-scale operations or for certain specialized areas - can claim to have established a minimum of statistical services.

6. Yet, the central questions are whether scope and quality of statistical services are in tune with the needs of important users; whether central facts about socio-economic and environmental conditions of African countries can be provided within a reasonable and meaningful time span; whether best use is made of available human and technical resources; and finally, whether based on current tendencies, indigenous statistical production in the nineties is likely to improve and narrow the gap between supply and demand.

Growing needs for quantitative information

7. Before independence, statistical production was very rudimentary, mainly geared to the specific economic interest of the external power. Newly independent countries were, however, well aware of the kind of statistical production most urgently needed: planning for the future required knowledge about the size and structure of populations and about the resource base and its use. Some countries which aimed at rapid industrialization sought to develop adequate economic statistics. The achievements of this initial period, measurable in a marked increase of statistical production, were certainly inspired by the political energies that had led to independence.

8. Yet, at the time, African statisticians were few in number and statistical production depended to a significant extent on expatriates with long-term contracts. Statistical concepts applied in Africa were mostly developed in and for a very different socio-economic context and thus often inadequate for identifying and measuring the determinants of the African environment.

9. The seventies saw a phase of consolidation and substantial expansion of statistical production. Forty-one countries carried out population censuses and the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) was established in 1978. Demographic statistics certainly benefitted most from the increase in activities. Concepts began to be fitted to social and economic characteristics of African countries. Yet, as more became known about the determinants of population and as basic economic statistics expanded, other information gaps were painfully felt. For example, the various impacts of the raise in the oil price in 1973 influenced development perspectives and, as a consequence, also statistical needs of planners. The pressure on net oil-importers to manage their resources efficiently became synonymous with the need to know more about them and their use. As demands for data tend to fluctuate in a pro-cyclical fashion with the intensity of a crisis, the call for better information became ever more pronounced.

10. The production of national statistical offices in the eighties could not keep pace with these rapidly increasing data demands, even where budget allocations to statistics and the training of statisticians had expanded. Planners thus had to cope with the fact that basic data, for example on domestic energy consumption patterns, were not available. They also came to realize that other important data sets which would have been necessary for planning a self-reliant future did not exist: hardly an African country knew details about its soil conditions, its forest cover and the rate at which it was depleted, its water resources and use, the scope and quality of its housing and infrastructure.

Factors contributing to demand-supply gap

11. Where data were available, their quality often left much to be desired. Data sets were seldom compatible with each other and could thus not be used for meaningful analysis. Hopes to improve administrative records and use them as a data source did not materialize as bureaucratic systems were not sufficiently developed. Deficiencies in the organization of censuses and surveys, especially in the processing of data, often resulted in unacceptable delays of several years. By the time data were released they had often become irrelevant for planning. Added to

the organizational problems were conceptual ones making it often impossible to use data generated from successive surveys for long-term or cross-country comparisons.

12. Partially as a response to such deficiencies, specialized ministries and agencies started to set up their own statistical services, sometimes in competition and duplication with national bureaus of statistics. Even though this has helped individual users, provided that primary data collection was well-organized, it nevertheless came at the risk of blurring responsibilities, of losing control over data production and of wasting scarce resources. In countries without functioning co-ordination mechanisms, the type and number of surveys conducted was sometimes more determined by external donor interests than by national priorities. Some areas suffered from being overstudied, while others were hardly touched. It could therefore be no surprise that despite a flurry of activities data series remained marred by incompatibility and inconsistency.

13. At the beginning of the 1990s most African countries have not achieved a balanced and sustainable flow of quantitative information. Moreover, efforts towards achieving those objective were often relaxed under the pressure of reduced resources, domestic as well as external. Experienced professional staff are abandoning important areas like national accounts or basic economic statistics because the available funds do not allow constant and equal support of all core areas. Important innovations, for example the provision of statistical information on the interrelationships between population and environment or the refining of agricultural statistics, cannot be considered by most statistical services except if outside sources can be obtained. On the part of users, this all amounts to the impression that statistical services, and often the data produced by them as well, are fragile and archaic at the same time. The erosion of confidence in the producers and the products sets a downward spiral in motion: less resources are allocated which in turn further demotivate remaining staff and lower their productivity.

14. The economic crisis of the eighties cut deeply into national statistical services as public expenditures were curtailed in many countries. Structural adjustment programmes often demanded sharp reductions in the staffing of the civil service. High fluctuation rates of qualified statistical personnel and low morale and motivation of remaining staff were results of these deteriorating public service conditions. Progress towards building up national statistical capabilities was slowed down or even reversed.

15. Reliance on external assistance therefore tends to increase again. It had been foreseeable that large-scale data collections, like censuses and surveys, would continue to require outside support. But other forms of external dependency are being added: given the deteriorating conditions in the civil service, many statisticians' willingness to stay hinges on receiving allowances from external sources in the context of projects. Individually understandable, this entails the risk for national statistical services of accepting a scope and orientation of projects which may sidetrack from and even undermine national plans and priorities. While balanced work programmes of national statistical offices may still exist pro forma, human resources for their de facto implementation may be concentrating in areas where better remuneration can be obtained.

16. An important factor behind some negative developments of the past was certainly the lack of appreciation for the role of statistics in development planning and monitoring. This often translated into a low priority for quantitative planning and monitoring approaches. But the trend now is moving towards more data, better analysis, better presentation, especially as micro-computer applications give common and easy access to data bases and allow fast and precise compilation. If statisticians do not respond dynamically to the challenges their status may further erode vis-à-vis subject-matter specialists in various ministries. Unsatisfactory legal and administrative setups or insufficient budgetary allocations do not provide a complete explanation for the current problems faced by statistical services. Their tendency towards routine carries the risk of loosing the view for innovation and for a constant questioning of the relevance and adequacy of their products. One of the most detrimental results is the pervasive lack of analysis of statistical data, i.e. of a crucial service to the potential user which could yield professional and public recognition. Given their unique knowledge about data, African statisticians are in a privileged position to conduct thorough quantitative analysis including projections. They could thus also contribute to a better understanding of the dynamics of developments leading to the success or failure of national programmes or international efforts such as the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery from 1986-1990 (APPER) or the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development from 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD). Especially at times when structural adjustment programmes are cutting deeply into the social fabric of African countries, it is necessary to mobilise all analytical capacities, quantitative and qualitative, to evaluate the acceptability and sustainability of the socio-economic structures they generate.

17. A second important factor contributing to a low profile of statistical services is a lack of proper management. While recognizing the importance of adequate resource endowments, it needs again to be noted that management and motivation are not exclusively dependent on financial factors. A producing office may erode simply because a new management is putting less emphasis on motivation and accountability. Management policies and tools such as career development through in-house training and professional exposure, clear work programmes and transparency of decisions can go a long way towards improving the profile of national statistical services.

Conclusion

18. As has been noted above, African statistical services can point to a number of significant achievements in the course of their relatively young history. Their position has never been an easy one as their dependency on resources drawn from fragile domestic revenues or from donor agencies was almost omnipresent. The main parameters cannot be expected to change radically for the better in the nineties. In the table "Assets and liabilities for the 1990s" which concludes this background discussion key issues that need to be considered in a framework for statistical development in the region have been summarized. Together with the recommendations, they form the background against which the draft Plan of Action (Annex) has been formulated.

19. Since the Fifth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers where some of these issues were discussed, there has been very little progress. The recommendations which were made by the secretariat in the document E/ECA/PSD.5/13 still stand and have therefore been included here. Some amendments have been made in light of more detailed information collected by the country-by-country survey on statistical capacity and on the basis of recommendations which emanated from ECA sponsored seminars and working groups.

20. Various actors determine the success or failure of a statistical service and the following recommendations attempt to cover all factors influencing the performance. There is therefore an urgent need for action to be taken jointly by the data producers and users. A first important step is to examine jointly the mutual needs and capacities of both the producers and the users and to thus establish a spirit of co-operation and mutual understanding.

21. The Sixth Session of the Joint Conference is therefore requested to consider this document and, if it so wishes, to amend and refine the draft Plan of Action so that it can be submitted to the Conference of Ministers.

TABLE 1

Assets and liabilities for the 1990s

+ Assets	- Liabilities
+ increasing managerial experience, programme management and transparency of decisions	- low status assigned to statistics and statisticians
	- inadequate statistical legislation
+ greater awareness for importance of statistics by political decision-makers	- unsatisfactory service conditions
	- high fluctuation rate and high training needs
+ increasing calls for expansion into new areas (gender, agriculture, environment, energy) and setting of priorities	- tendency to donor-driven programmes
+ more donor interest (at least in some areas)	- insufficient focus on domestic needs and priorities, especially lack of analysis
+ greater number of trained statisticians ("critical mass")	- insufficient link to planners and other users (for example through user-producer committees)
+ wider use of modern data-processing equipment, especially micro-computers, thus	- lack of links to universities and neglect of research
+ speeding up of data entry and compilation	- lack of integrared data bases
+ greater machine reliability	
+ quality of presentation and speed of dissemination improved	

+ analysis potential increases

+ pervasive qualification of staff, self-training at low cost

+ existence of regional training institutions and professional associations

+ increased research activity in applied statistics at regional training institutes and in national statistical services

+ more analysis of data for use by planners

responsibility of data collection in their respective field. Greater care should be taken to ensure that their work is not duplicated elsewhere. Instead, all efforts should be directed to assisting the ministry to provide reliable and timely data.

Work programme budget

35. A budget document should be prepared which covers the financial year setting out what final outputs will be delivered during the period. Due consideration should be given to the primary users and the anticipated use. They should also contain an evaluation of resource requirements which should indicate the professional and non-professional work months required, the purpose and the cost of field operations, data processing and personal and external relations. Details of this nature will help the ministry or regional budget divisions to evaluate what activities and final outputs they can fund and will show up the inadequate and unrealistic estimates to undertake the inadequate.

Determining users needs

36. Each programme should be subject to a determined procedure for periodical reviewing to meet changing circumstances. Interviews with users should play a fundamental role. After an initial consultation for a comprehensive review of all activities, particularly if a country has a statistical unit, a user group must continually be set up to meet regularly. The Director of Statistics in addition with his staff should periodically meet the statistics group to keep him informed on their work, problems and fields of its activities and requirements in relation to their needs. Such a committee could assist in the coordination of statistical activities in the country.

37. Particulars should be given to users for their approval before an item of an annual programme finalized of such a committee is to establish a clear understanding of data requirements, the benefits from them and a time schedule with consequences for non-inclusion of requested data because of limited resources in a given schedule.

28. Sub-groups for specialized fields such as demographic and social statistics, economic statistics, and natural resources and environment statistics, could be established where specialized statisticians would serve as liaison to the respective fields. These groups should, however, report to the committee on a quarterly or half-yearly basis.

29. One of the first objectives of such a committee should be to initiate the preparation and updating of a directory of institutions collecting, compiling and disseminating statistics in the country, to list all their series with an indication of periods covered, and to create greater and in order form data are machine-retrievable. It should also maintain liaison at their staff and of data processing equipment so that more frequent qualitative and quantitative assessments of the national statistical capability can be made.

30. Conclusions and recommendations of the committee should have an advisory character and its members should report to the policy-making level. International agencies operating in the country, especially when they are interested in data collection activities, ought to have a proper collective to obtain clearance from such a body.

Priorities in data collection

31. The National Statistical Service should establish a list of priorities in relation to major fields having into account the needs of users as evidenced in the user-producer committee discussions. This list should also take into account the priorities established in the country's development plan and define the types of data gaps and problems to be solved and their impacts on socio-economic development and the environment. These such as agriculture, natural resources and environment statistics as well as sub-sectors in each should receive more prominence in their context. Greater spatial disaggregation of data should necessarily entail development. Such priorities will derive the ranking from the list which had been presented at E/ECA/PSD.6/11.

Sources of data

32. National statistical services should try to make optimal use of all sources available to generate the data needs. This implies that the co-ordinating body has to regularly inventorize information on what is available with specifications such as the geographical scope, the minimum coverage, periodicity, lead. On this basis a detailed plan of what is collected, when, how and with what

intensity has to be drawn up. A medium and long-term plan updated and revised on an annual basis should be used as orientation. Such long-term anticipation of statistical development allows to make appropriate provisions for resources both financial and human necessary to implement the programmes for carrying out censuses and surveys.

(ii) Censuses: In drawing up census programmes sufficient time has to be provided for monitoring the results of a population census which has not as has happened be repeated before the results of the previous one are known. A ten-year interval has proved to be very suitable for the requirements of African countries provided that this periodicity is strictly adhered to. In order to make census results available quickly and to a wide range of users further advantage should be taken of new technology for processing and disseminating statistical data.

(iii) Surveys: Surveys promise to be the most prolific source of statistical information for African countries All countries should therefore draw up programmes comprising the results expected and including detailed procedures for processing analysis and dissemination. Interim results should be reviewed for their applicability and usefulness for the specific objectives pursued. Given the desirability of international comparisons standardization should be sought where feasible. This is particularly important for analyzing trends and structures from one census to another.

(iii) Administrative records: There are many statistics more than ever before which are collected for a variety of administrative purposes. Their use should be made of this source. It is a problem that administrative systems usually suffer from many defects and steps should be taken to improve them for statistical purposes. The central statistical bureau should not assume a merely passive role as recipient. The usefulness of administrative records compiled by specialized governmental bodies such as the Ministry of Trade can be maximized through close consultations on record design and content between national statistical services and data users within administration.

Quality control and standards unit

33. In order to improve the quality of information collected, an organizational unit or methods and standards should be set up in each statistical service. One of its functions should be the establishment of quality control measures in all phases of the data collection and compilation process. It should also be responsible for ensuring that standards established in classification systems as well as common concepts and definitions are used in all data collection operations. Co-ordination of research projects in the field of statistics with other agencies and conduct of other research experiments would be handled by this unit.

Statistical Manpower Development Programme

34. The National Statistical Service, jointly with the government civil service organ responsible for manpower development should establish a programme for statistical staff recruitment development and training. Such a programme should incorporate among other things, an attractive scheme of service commensurate with other professions in the government civil service. The scheme of service should avoid paying biased rewards statistical personnel but should include other areas such as data processing, printing, library, which may require special skills in addition to statistics. The training component should take account of not only the unfilled established posts but also the needs of specialized and technical personnel in various fields of statistics. At the same time, in order to ensure a proper balance of statistical production in the various areas, a thorough study of the whole organizational structure of the whole National Statistical Service should be undertaken before such a programme is established.

Training

35. The National Statistical Service, as a matter of urgency should consider various ways of solving the training needs currently being faced at all levels in the statistical profession. A number of strategies need to be pursued to satisfy the continuous requirements.

36. In order to increase the number of qualified professional statisticians capable of analysis and innovation the field, there is a need to establish professional level training at national universities where it is not yet available. At the same time national universities which undertake statistical training should be urged to adopt the guide syllabus which was developed by the ECA as a point of reference for their programmes. This would go a long way in producing the right calibre of statisticians for the

national statistical services. In addition to offering formal degree and diploma courses African statistical training centres should be encouraged to establish short training courses, run workshops, seminars, in areas of interest to serving statistical personnel in government ministries and other organizations such as household surveys, sampling techniques, use of micro-computers, etc.

37. National statistical services should establish in-service statistical training programmes particularly at the middle-level. Short term courses, seminars and workshops should be organized for all levels as a means of improving the statistical skills of the staff. This is particularly important for long-term serving personnel whose need for formal training is not apparent.

Data processing

38. The National Statistical Services should improve their data processing capacity in order to speed up the production of data. They should be ready to decentralise their data processing operation with the hope of achieving efficiency in this field and avoid heavy reliance on the government central computers. Micro-computer applications should be widely adopted. More statisticians should be trained in the use of such computers and peripherals and software packages for data entry, compilation and presentation as well as for analysis and attractive report preparation should be acquired to reduce the reliance of statistical services on professional programmers and systems analysts. For large-scale data handling, there should be a preference for creating or expanding data processing centres within national statistical services. This would reduce the dependency on the government central computer centres, particularly where bottlenecks in such services have created unacceptable back-logs in data processing in the past.

Data dissemination

39. National statistical services should set up or strengthen information and public relations units for data dissemination. This unit should contain a library for NSS publications and those received from elsewhere (national and international). It should be closely linked to emerging national information systems. The unit will also serve as a mechanism through which the primary users of the data will provide a feedback on any deficiencies in the data. These can then be monitored and used for improving data quality in subsequent publications.

40. National statistical services should attempt to establish their own printing unit in order to reduce the reliance on the government and private printers. It may be possible to acquire off-set printing machines for the publication of small-scale reports and current statistics while the large-scale publications should still be produced elsewhere. At the same time, use should be made of new computer technologies such as scanning and desk-top publishing to improve the quality of the publications. Camera-ready outputs could be prepared and sent directly to the printer for publication thus greatly reducing the time lag due to queuing at the printer.

41. The future will see less emphasis on printed paper as far as professional users and analysts of data are concerned. A two-tier approach characterized by the following is recommended to provide ever-better quality printed statistics (including graphs and maps) while at the same time facilitating very quick access of data by principal users. In the present this is done via computer print-outs and tables. In the future, data exchange will be via diskette or modem (link as users gain increasing access to micro-computer technology. This will be a quick means of providing timely data for planners and policy makers. Statistical services should therefore also be involved in material technical innovation. Task forces in order to ensure full comparability of systems utilized in various government offices. This could bring a qualitative change, if not a literal leap forward in computer relevance and technical quality of data.

Data Analysis

42. The national statistical services should consider conducting seminars and workshops for policy makers in order to discuss the various statistical systems. Presentations on user-ware major explain the data could help to evaluate the users the client features of the data in diskettes. Such seminars or workshops were not feasible to organize. They involve a much stronger focus on analysis of the data and presentations as well as on the presentation of data (graphics, maps). Discussions in such workshops will provide a feedback to the national statistical services particularly on the utility of the various data being produced. Regardless, however, experience and surveys in a number of countries have shown conducting such seminars with a very positive response from users. In some cases seminars have also been organized in other areas such as National Accounts. Such efforts need to be strengthened as they also provide important means for statisticians to contribute their often under-rated technical and analytical skills.

External Assistance

43. In order to maximize the benefits of donor assistance for statistical activities, countries should insist on a coherent and integrated approach. They should seek to strengthen the national management of technical assistance offered to them. This implies that priorities established in development work programme budgets should be the guiding principles for external support. The co-ordination of donor activities is imperative so that different donor agencies and countries can support various items or components within the programme without duplicating work over short time spans.

44. The National Statistical Services should work jointly with the government organs responsible for securing assistance to solicit more external financing for the support of those statistical activities that have failed to get local financing. Special attention should be paid to those projects which are likely to linger because of lack of foreign exchange to acquire equipment from outside or because external training is needed in specialized and technical areas of statistics. Both these components are so important for building up the national statistical capacity and as appropriately qualified statisticians tend to grow rapid upward mobility, external assistance programmes need to focus on these aspects. Emphasis also needs to be given to the provision of short training courses for serving statistical personnel and on-the-job training in the situation where technical assistance personnel are involved. They could thus truly promote development in the countries of the African region.

C. Tasks for regional co-operation

Advisory services

45. To-date ECA and other agencies have provided advisory services to African countries in the fields of censuses, demographic and social statistics, data processing, data base development, statistical organization and training, household surveys and basic economic statistics including national accounts. Other areas have been industrial, trade and price statistics. These should continue on a short term basis and should be aimed at building self-reliance in the statistical offices. The development and use of administrative sources in the compilation of the various social statistics needs to be increased. Areas under the area of national accounts, basic economic statistics, trade and industrial statistics, social statistics, covering the areas of labour, migration and labour should also be mentioned.

Research in statistical methods

46. Research in the methodology for statistics has so far received very little attention in Africa. The majority of the methods have been applied on their face value without research into their adaptation to African conditions. The same is true of equipment such as that for measuring distances etc. Statistical training institutions including UNECA centres should undertake this research in view of the limited sustainability of such research at their institutions. These experiments need to be conducted at the country level. Statistical services should have such experience to enable subregional or country comparisons. Statistical training institutions and national statistical services should undertake their role of research more seriously.

47. The linkage of statistical services with training institutions has so far been weak and informal. There is need to formulate and strengthen this linkage, in particular to encourage trainers at statistical training institutions to be attached for a certain period at national statistical services and vice versa. Such linkage will promote research as well as proper understanding of the activities of the various agencies.

DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION

INTRODUCTION

1. By the year 2000, African statistics need to reach a stage where they can play their rightful role in assisting planning, decision-making including monitoring and evaluation of social and economic development. To this end a commitment of African Governments to truly build up national capacities for collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating statistics is necessary and needs to be translated into a range of activities by both users and producers of statistical information.

2. The objective of this plan of action is to achieve a measurable level of self-sufficiency in statistical production and to improve the relevance of data produced in African countries by the end of this century. It would be unrealistic to expect that all national statistical systems would have reached satisfactory levels of performance by then, but quantitative and qualitative targets could be set in each country to enable evaluation of achivement. They could, for example, include the number of surveys produced, the number of statisticians trained and retained in the service and compare evaluations by users of the statistical service at the beginning and at the end of the nineties according to a standard questionnaire.

3. The draft plan covers three levels of action namely the national, regional and international community levels. At the national level the government is at the heart of the action plan followed by specific actions covering resource mobilisation, statistical training, statistical committees, organization of National Statistical Services (NSS) linkage of the NSS with training institutions and national seminars. Although national seminars are expected to focus on the other actions as well they should be discussed separately in the draft plan of action.

ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

The African Governments

4. African Governments should set up the institutional framework for the operation of national statistical services (NSS). The support given to NSS will be determined by the extent that decision-makers recognize the importance of quantitative approaches for informed decision-making and act on two important areas: first, in improving the service conditions and creating satisfactory and fair remuneration levels for statisticians; secondly, in assigning a status to statistical services which reflects the vital role that information will increasingly assume in the nineties. This could lead statistical services to become independent and attain a level of high integrity.

5. The following suggested actions in the plan are based on two premises:

- that Governments are recognizing the importance of statistical information and are therefore sensitive to revamping the systems; and

- that increased communication before, during and after the statistical production process with the user community is an important resource in itself which, once started, would generate additional resources through the attractiveness of its product.

Resource mobilization

6. Many African governments increased resources for developing their statistical systems immediately after independence. At the same time international and bilateral technical and financial resources were expanded to help this development. These efforts contributed to further advance in the statistical systems of most African countries in the 1960s and 1970s. Staff were recruited, existing ones further trained and much useful quantitative information collected and analysed. However, by the late 1970s and during the 1980s there were perceptible reverses of this trend as the continent went through severe economic crisis. this was precisely when improved statistical information was needed for short-term economic management and long-term planning.

7. Whatever the difficulties and pitfalls, an improvement of the statistical system constitutes an integral part of economic and social development. Most people in government acknowledge that statistics are essential but do not give it strong political and financial support.

8. Countries are now called upon to give further consideration to resource mobilization for statistical development. The following are among some possible options:

(a) Establishment of a Statistical Development Fund with contributions from the public and private sectors.

(i) A developed and or improved statistical system benefits the private as well as the public sector. Established private sector undertakings should contribute directly to such development by giving grants, awarding fellowships, providing needed equipment (e.g. micro-computer) for research, etc.

(ii) Government must undertake to, as much as possible, increase and sustain its budgetary appropriations to statistics. Government could also make subventions, and provide adequte incentives to enable the statistical service to recruit and retain qualified personnel.

(b) Adequate and reliable statistics are needed to design, monitor and evaluate projects. In drawing up such projects it may be worth considering the idea of including a small amount to the project cost as contribution to the statistical development of the country.

(c) It is often said that 'bankable' projects stand a fair chance of attracting donor support. While this is true, it is too often forgotten that recurrent activities of most statistical services cannot be translated into 'bankable' projects. Perhaps the time has come when the concept of an African Statistical Development Fund should be translated into reality with the support of the international donor community. Donor Conferences could be possible source of such funding.

Statistical Training

9. Statistical training in Africa has so far concentrated on basic degree, diploma and certificates offered at undergraduate, postgraduate, middle level training centres including in-service training programmes offered at some National Statistical Offices and middle level training centres at national level.

10. While these training programmes will continue to be promoted and expanded, there is need for statistical training institutions at the national level to organize specialised training courses of short duration in fields such as household surveys (covering aspects such as sample designs, data processing, field techniques, etc.), national accounts, economic statistics, industrial, trade and agricultural statistics, etc. for the benefit of serving statistical and other personnel including those personnel outside the statistical service but engaged in planning activities.

11. National Statistical Offices should prepare statistical development programmes which would help them to utilize the available training facilities and those to be established to the maximum possible.

Statistical Committees

12. Statistical committees such as user-producer or producer-producer should be reactivated in countries where these exist or should be initiated in countries where these do not as yet exist. These committees enable exchange of views regarding development of statistics, use of the available statistics and the setting of priorities for statistical activities in the country.

13. Many national statistical Offices have used informal contact with users to discuss a number of issues facing their development of statistics. These should be encouraged where they have been found to be effective. The formation or reactivation of the statistical committees at the country level should be undertaken by the National Statistical Office in collaboration with the ministry responsible for statistics in the country.

Organization of National Statistical Services (NSS)

14. In view of the inadequate organizational aspects of National Statistical Services (NSS) there is need to examine and restructure a number of these services. The structural set up at the head office and in line ministries statistical units and the establishment of regional statistical offices should be examined carefully and in detail. At the NSS headquarters, the establishment

of a number of units such as the quality control and standards, unit and the publication and information unit would assist the promotion of research, enforcement of statistical standards and establishment of public relations with those outside the NSS headquarters.

15. The location and status of the NSS has been discussed extensively at statistical meetings. In considering the organizational aspects of the NSS, account should be taken of the locational aspects and also the legal basis on which it operates.

Linkage of the NSS with training institutions

16. The linkage of NSS with statistical and other training institutions has in many African countries been weak. This to some extent has hampered the development at training institutions of appropriate curricula for the students which would help them in their future career and also the development of research in statistical techniques which are used by those in the field and the office.

17. This linkage should be promoted either through projects, exchange of personnel, teaching activities, or other appropriate mechanisms to enable beneficial effects regarding the development of statistics in the country.

National seminars

18. National statistical seminars covering specific areas should be organized in order to determine whether current statistical production is in accordance with the country's development objectives anticipated for the period. The result of the exercise should be a ten-year statistical development plan which would be the guide and framework for annual or biennial national statistical work programmes. Seminars should be organised for statistical personnel only, planners only and joint planners and statistical personnel. The planners should include experts in economic and physical planning.

19. Participation for all seminars should be sought from government as well as research and training institution. As these seminars should spell out possibilities as well as limitations of quantitative approaches, a wide range of scientific methods need to be represented. They should also provide a basis for further close interaction between the universities/specialised training institutions and National Statistical Offices in order to focus on research and training more closely to the principal needs and, on the other hand, to inject and maintain a stronger element of research interests and analysis into national statistical services.

20. The scope and technical detail of the task may require the splitting up of such seminars into working groups for carrying out special assignments (e.g. drafting of improved statistical legislation, management strategies, staff development plans, preparation of work programme budgets, concepts for integrating data bases, computer applications for special analytical purposes, spatial analysis tools, formulating outlines for research projects and statistical training programmes, broad outline for external resource requirements and guidelines for project implementation dissemination policies, public relations).

21. One important objective to be achieved with such an approach would be to provide input into user-producer or producer-producer committees. These Committees will ultimately carry on the work, refine the objectives and define in detail what should be achieved over shorter time periods.

22. A second objective would be the formulation of guidelines for co-ordinating and improving domestic management of externally-funded projects and programmes. Issues such as the conformity of projects with national strategies and the allocation of internal resources to projects (counter-part arrangements) would need to be addressed.

23. It is assumed that the resources for holding such seminars, will come from domestic sources and in exceptional circumstances from donor agencies. As will be spelled out below in the section on "International support", some specific tasks may be supported (e.g. through technical reports and regional seminars).

24. The following suggested list of a series of specialized seminars should be considered with varying scope and intensity depending on respective national needs.

I. General review of the role and functions of NSS

(a) Establishment of statistical priorities

(i) Identification of topics and approximate weights in resource allocation (targets);

(ii) Formulation of a minimum programme and additional modules catering to specific national (or regional) needs;

(iii) Balancing short-term needs (timeliness) against statistical standards (reliability);

(b) Establishment of procedural priorities

(i) Expansion of analysis, including projections and forecasting;

(ii) Improvement in presentation methods (graphs, maps);

(iii) Increase of user interaction through workshops providing analysis of census and survey results;

(iv) Orientation towards a service and product-oriented approach to statistical production (in light of possible competitors);

II. Organisational and legal framework conditions for NSS

(a) Adequacy of location, supervision and status ("upstream")

(b) Legal basis for statistical organisation and production.

(c) Organisational structure of national statistical office, regional statistical offices and line ministries offices.

(d) Formal and informal arrangement for identifying and co-ordinating statistical activities.

(e) User-producer interaction in formulating and evaluating statistical production.

(f) International co-operation among countries at the sub-regional level (exchange of experience, experts).

(g) Producer-producer interaction in the improvement of statistical production.

III. Management of statistical services

(a) Formal and informal hierarchies; process and transparency of decisionmaking; staff-management relations; remuneration levels within the whole NSS and in relation to equivalent professions in ministries.

(b) Process of formulating, implementing and monitoring work programme; drafting of budget proposals and project documents to donors; adequacy of administrative and management support; evaluation methods (internal and external).

ACTION AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

25. At the regional level a number of actions need to be promoted. These cover the following areas:

Regional Advisory Services

26. These have mainly been provided by the Economic Commission for Africa through regionally supported projects such as the Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) Project and the Regional Advisory Service in Demographic and Social Statistics (RASDS). A number of Regional Advisers visit African countries on request to advise in specific areas of population censuses, cartography, census data processing, sampling in the field of censuses and surveys, household surveys, basic economic statistics including national accounts, etc. These advisory services should be encouraged and should be provided in specific areas of need. The reliance by countries on long-term experts should be further reduced and be replaced by these advisory services or short term experts where seriously needed.

Regional, sub-regional meetings

27. These are in the form of seminars, workshops and training courses and have been provided before at the regional or sub-regional levels. They should be continued to promote exchange of experiences and knowledge between countries. ECA should continue to play a role in organizing and hosting some of these meetings. Donor agencies should be encouraged to finance some of the meetings.

Training institutions

28. So far STPA and non-STPA centres have provided the regional facilities for training. These should continue to be encouraged in particular the development of teaching programmes, teaching materials, post-graduate teaching and research, teaching of specialised courses of direct relevance to African countries, etc. The training facilities should be expanded and be made more relevant to the African conditions.

African Statistical Association (AFSA)

29. Support by African Governments should continue to be provided to the AFSA which was created in March 1984 by those statisticians wo attended the Third Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. This association will promote exchange of regional issues on statistics, research and regional co-operation.

Technical co-operation

30. There has so far been very little technical co-operation among African countries in the field of statistics. This should be encouraged in the nineties in particular within the framework of TCDC of the United Nations. Related to this is the continued promotion of national professionals in the countries in view of the existence of experts who can undertake certain tasks.

ACTION AT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY LEVEL

31. The role of the international community (donors) including inter-government organizations needs to be recognized and promoted in the development of statistics in Africa.

32. Most of the donor community has supported ongoing activities of national statistical services and also initiated new projects. These projects have in some cases been purely of interest to them and having very little or no relevance to the development policy of the country. Donors should finance project which are in line with the statistical development programme of the NSS.

33. With respect to technical assistance personnel, these should be fielded, for a very short time, covering areas of real need. The aim should be that of capacity building. Training of either on the job or short-term courses should be part and parcel of this technical assistance. The tendency to provide equipment which either is obsolete or has no maintainance support in the country should be avoided. Technical assistance personnel should avoid production of the outputs themselves instead they should play their advisory role adequately.

34. In addition to providing technical support and funds for specific project, the evaluation of the impact of the assistance should be conducted in collaboration with national authorities either at the end of the assistance period if it is short or at regularly intervals if it is a long term type of assistance.

35. Co-ordination among donors should be even more improved to enable reduction or eradication of duplication of assistance to the NSS.

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REVIEW OF ECA STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (1988-1989) AND FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

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ANNEX I - LIST OF PROFESSIONALS OF ECA STATISTICS DIVISION

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ANNEX III - WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The performance of ECA Statistics Division during the biennium 1988-1989 was affected by the long delay encountered in filling the vacant posts following the lifting of recruitment freeze. Thus the Division had an average of 68 per cent of the total work-months originally provided for it in the work programme budget. This represents a slight improvement compared with the situation during the biennium 1986-1987. The percentage of total work-months available increased from approximately 58 per cent in January 1988 to 75 per cent in December 1989. The full list of professional staff in the Statistics Division is attached as Annex I.

2. The staffing problems encountered by the statistics programme financed from the regular budget did not apply to statistical projects financed from extra-budgetary resources. Thus a large number of technical advisory missions were carried out in the area of statistical training, basic economic statistics, demographic and social statistics and household surveys.

3. It is proposed that the Joint Conference should review the ECA statistical activities during the biennium 1988-1989, consider the 1990-1991 programme budget (Annex III), the proposed 1992-1993 work programme narrative (Annex IV) and the medium-term plan 1992-1996 (document E/ECA/PSD.6/19).

II. WORK PERFORMANCE (1988-1989)

4. As shown in Annex II, the statistics programme was expected to continue to address the lack of efficient and durable statistical systems that has seriously handicapped many African countries in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of their development plans. The problem has become even more urgent because many African countries have instituted economic policy reforms under a number of international programmes such as Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 (APPER), the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 (UN-PAAERD) and the Lagos Plan of Action.

5. Unfortunately the Statistics Division continued to operate with a high rate of vacant posts during the period under consideration. Measures had been taken to recruit staff on a temporary basis to fill in the gaps. Thus for example the Division operated with only 58 per cent of its regular budget professional staff in January 1988, although the situation improved in December 1989 with a percentage of 75 per cent. The Statistics Division had an average of 68 per cent of the total work-months originally provided for in the work programme budget, not taking into account one P.3 post in national accounts which

was abolished. However, the situation has slightly improved compared with that of the biennium 1986-1987 which had an average of just under 60 per cent.

6. The vacancy situation in the Division adversely affected the delivery of a number of programmed outputs, albeit the impact of the situation was less than full as some of the related outputs were assigned to staff on board. Additional outputs required by legislation or added at the initiative of the secretariat were also delivered.

7. The travel funds allocated to the programme under the regular budget continued to decline with an amount of USD17,300 for the 1988-1989 biennium, thus reflecting a decrease of US$1,900 from the revalued base. It should however be noted that funds were available from extra-budgetary sources to finance advisory missions which were part of the activities of projects executed by the Statistics Division. An account of these missions has been given in document E/ECA/PSD.6/5 on ECA technical assistance in the fields of planning, statistics, demography and information sciences.

8. A summary of activities undertaken under the regular budget which were carried out during the biennium 1988-1989 is given below. For ease of presentation these are considered under the three sub-programmes into which the programme "Statistics in Africa" is divided, namely statistical development, economic statistics and censuses and surveys.

Subprogramme 1: Statistical Development

9. Under this subprogramme one post at the P.4 level (Chief, Statistical Data Base) and one post at the P.2 level (associate statistician) were vacant for a total of 30 work-months during the biennium 1988-1989. Also, the Chief, Statistics Division, left on retirement at the end of November 1989. In view of the high priority attached to the subprogramme, staff resources had to be redeployed to enable as many outputs as possible to be delivered.

10. All outputs under programme element 1.1 - General Aspects of Co-ordination and Development - were delivered. The reports to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers were prepared and the Conference was held as planned. The 1988 issue of the Directory of African Statisticians, the 1989 issue of the Bibliography of African publications and four issues of the Statistical Newsletter were published. Additional outputs required by legislation were also delivered within the framework of the UNDP/World Bank/ECA project on Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows in Africa. In this connection missions on assessment of

national statistical capacity were undertaken to 32 African countries. As a result a paper entitled "An Overview of national statistical capacity in selected ECA member States" is being presented to the Conference.

11. With respect to programme element 1.2 - Statistical Data Base Development - all outputs were also delivered with the exception of a report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the survey of member States requirements for developing statistical data bases which was terminated due to the vacancy of the post of Chief Statistical Data Base (ex-Chief, International Trade and Related Statistics Section).

12. Under the operational activities in this area, a training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking Government statisticians and planners was held in February 1989. The relevant reports to the seminar were also prepared. One advisory mission to member States on the development and maintenance of national statistical data base was terminated due to lack of travel funds. However, arrangements have been made for the delivery of this output from extra-budgetary resources under a project executed by the Statistics Division.

13. All outputs under programme element 1.3 - Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) - were also delivered with the exception of 1.1 (i) - Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the Statistical Training Programme for Africa which was terminated due to the vacancy situation in the Statistics Division during the period under consideration. Also some elements of the paper have been partly included in the report to the Joint Conference on the evaluation of STPA.

14. The sixth meeting of Directors of STPA Centres was held in Addis Ababa in December 1989. The report of the meeting will be considered under the agenda item number 14 of the present Conference on Integrated approach to the development of statistics: The Statistical Development Programme for Africa. The meeting agreed inter alia that statistical training provided within the STPA framework should be continued in line of the current national situation and that special emphasis should be laid on post-graduate and specialised training, including the training of trainers, and middle level personnel. The meeting also expressed satisfaction with the news that CESD-Lisbon which was being established within the Higher Institute for Statistical Information and Management (ISEGI) of Portugal for training of professional statisticians for Portuguese-speaking developing countries, particularly of Africa, will open in 1990.

Furthermore, it recommended that appropriate steps should be taken by the various parties involved in the establishment of a middle-level statistical training centre in Bissau for the use by Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe to enable the opening of the centre in October 1990.

15. It should be noted that a wide range of activities within the framework of STPA has been carried out under the UNDP financed project "Statistical Development Programme for Africa" (SDPA). A brief account of the overall activities in the area of statistical training is given in the document E/ECA/PSD.6/5 on ECA technical assistance.

Subprogramme 2: Economic Statistics

16. Under this subprogramme, two posts at the P.3 level (one in national accounts and the other in international trade) and one post at the P.2 level (in price statistics) were vacant for a total of 42 work-months.

17. Work on economic statistics continued in the following areas: national accounts and finance, external trade, industry and energy, prices, agriculture, transport and communications and tourism.

18. The thrust of these activities was the improvement of the technical quality of national, subregional and regional statistical data bases and the building up of national capability and self-reliance in the production and dissemination of relevant and timely basic economic data targeted at specific needs of current development policy. In this regard, much emphasis was placed on advisory services to countries.

19. In many countries of the African region the availability of basic economic statistics falls far short of the minimum desirable or even essential for rational policy making and economic development. This is evidenced, for example, by the absence of up-to-date estimates of economic growth and of the basic data, principally agricultural and industrial, required to make such estimates reliably, adequately and early enough to be useful to formulate and implement policies.

20. Twenty advisory service missions with follow-up in almost all cases were fielded in the following countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The emphasis of these missions was on-the-job training and the building of national capability. These missions were undertaken both by regular budget and project staff and were financed mainly from extra-budgetary resources. The missions were able to observe at first

hand the progress being made and problems encountered. Some of these advisory service missions addressed not only problematic areas and on-the-job training but also short in-service training for substantive and subject-matter related departments/offices of the statistical services as well as user-departments. A popular area of such in-service-training has been national accounts.

21. Seminars and workshops have also contributed to the process of building up of national capability and self-reliance. These meetings did provide useful fora for effective discussion of technical matters and exchange of ideas and practical experience. The working group on Improving the basic economic statistics required for planning purposes which was held in Addis Ababa, in September 1988 was one such meeting. Organized in two monolingual groups (one English-and the other French-speaking) which were held concurrently, the working group brought together participants from 25 ECA member States, the South West Africa People's Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Statistical Office. Unfortunately that working group was the only one in economic statistics which the secretariat was able to organize out of three which had been included in the Division's work programme for the biennium 1988-1989. Lack of funds did not permit the holding of a seminar on International trade statistics and a working group on Improvement of data on small-scale and household industries. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided funding under the Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) for holding the working group.

22. Delivery of advisory missions in basic economic statistics and national accounts to member States in 1988-1989 was on a lower scale than programmed for the biennium. The rate of delivery was more or less similar to that of 1986-1987. But whereas the cause in 1986-1987 was, by and large, explained to be the financial crisis in the United Nations System, in 1988-1989 it was the vacant post of regional adviser in national accounts under the UN regular programme of technical co-operation. The incumbent of that post left ECA in February 1988 and a replacement could not be found until November 1989.

23. In spite of the overall low level of delivery of advisory services in economic statistics in the biennium 1988-1989, it is gratifying to note a reversal of the position as regards industrial statistics. Whereas no advisory service mission was undertaken during the 1986-1987 biennium, seven such missions were undertaken in 1988-1989. Five of these missions were focused on assisting countries to implement international recommendations on industrial statistics, the organization and conduct of nation-wide industrial censuses and the gradual setting up of integrated systems of industrial statistics. The other two missions critically reviewed national practices in the area of enterprise statistics and made recommendations on ways of improving the quality and quantity of the existing data bases.

24. It should also be mentioned that, as part of its operational activities the Division collaborated with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the conduct of a Seminar on National Accounts Statistics which was held in Cotonou, Republic of Benin in November 1988 for State members of the Community.

25. In respect of the SNA Review, it should be indicated that the revised draft of the SNA is expected to be submitted to one, possibly two regional commissions meetings: one meeting in 1990 and the other possibly between end of 1991 and mid 1992. Two separate regional meetings are planned for the ECA region in 1990 and steps have been taken to interest donor agencies in these meetings.

26. The International Comparison Project (ICP) which has been a driving force in the development of national price statistics, especially consumer price indices, has now completed the Phase V activities. Preliminary results are available for all regions. It will be recalled that 21 out of the 22 countries which participated in ICP-Phase V are in Africa. Tables with minimum methodological explanations will be published jointly by the United Nations Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT). The twenty-fifth (February 1989) session of the Statistical Commission stressed the importance of preparing and disseminating a handbook on the ICP.

27. Work on the further development of the secretariat's data base was intensified since the last biennium. In the area of economic statistics, activities were concentrated on agriculture, industry, transport, communications and tourism, the public sector, prices, international trade and external transactions.

28. The following publications under this subprogramme were finalized for publication: 1987 African Statistical Yearbook, 1987 African Social and Economic Indicators, Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa No. 10, Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa - Summary tables Series C numbers 8 and 9, Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa - Direction of Trade Series A numbers 31 and 32.

29. Computer printouts of economic data in the ECA data base sent out to the statistical services of member States were on: agriculture; total trade (imports, exports and balance of trade); exchange rates (imports, exports and weighted); annual average growth rates of imports and exports; share of developing Africa imports in exports; gross domestic product (GDP) by kind of economic activity and expenditure on GDP at current and constant prices in national currency and United States dollars; growth rates on GDP, sectoral deflators; price indices; public sector statistics; general industrial commodity production and energy; transport, communications, external transactions and tourism.

Subprogramme 3: Censuses and Surveys

30. Under this subprogramme one post at the P.3 level was vacant for a total of 20 work-months during the biennium 1988-1989.

31. All outputs under programme element 3.1 - Demographic and Social Statistics were delivered. The Working Group on Migration Statistics was organized in November 1989 with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Working Group was attended by 13 African experts invited in their individual capacities from the following countries: Botswana, Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire. Work on development of demographic and social statistics data base continued. Finally, technical publications were prepared on (a) population registers in Africa and other more conventional sources of demographic statistics and (b) socio-economic indicators on women derived from household survey data and other sources.

32. The output under programme element 3.2 - Support to technical co-operation project in Central Africa: Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale - could not be delivered following redeployment of resources to other priority outputs, particularly in the subprogramme 1.

33. Under the programme element 3.3 - Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics - the intergovernmental working group on processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data [output 3.3 (ii)] was cancelled due to lack of financial support. However, the three reports which were to be presented to the working group, namely review of African practices in processing census, civil registration and sample survey data [output 3.3 (i) (a)], integrated plan for data entry, editing, tabulation and analysis of data [output 3.3 (i) (b)] and inventory of software packages available for statistical data processing in Africa [output 3.3 (i) (c)] were prepared and forwarded to member States for consideration. The technical publication on registration of the nomadic population for Government statisticians and planners was also terminated because this output was delivered as a study case for Mali using extra-budgetary resources.

34. As regards the operational activities under this programme element, all the advisory service missions to member States on the organization, planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection were carried out except one. It should however be pointed out that about 90 advisory missions

were undertaken to 35 member States during the biennium in the above fields within the framework of the project Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics which is financed by UNFPA.

35. All the outputs under programme element 3.4 - African Household Survey Capability Programme were delivered. All the reports to the intergovernmental working group on household surveys were prepared by the ECA staff and the ECA/ILO Regional Adviser in Household Surveys. The working group, which was organized in Addis Ababa in October 1989, was attended by 22 experts from the following member States of ECA: Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

36. Under the operational activities for this programme element, one advisory service mission could not be undertaken due to lack of financial resources in the regular budget. However, about 35 advisory missions were undertaken to 20 member States during the biennium under the project Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA) which is financed by UNDP.

37. Under the programme element 3.5 - Environment Statistics - emphasis was put on the establishment of a regional data base containing high priority indicators related to the environmental concerns expressed in UN-PAAERD, particularly drought and desertification, base line information on main factors describing the natural and man-made environment in African countries and specific statistical information on environmental components, events, impacts and responses for groups of countries with similar ecologies or environmental concerns (computer printouts on environment statistics for Government statisticians and planners).

38. One advisory mission was also undertaken to Botswana to assess the feasibility of establishing an environment statistics programme in that country. However, one advisory mission which was planned could not be undertaken due to lack of travel funds. Meanwhile the opportunity of other missions was used to hold consultations with various agencies dealing with environment statistics particularly the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Geneva, and the FAO Statistics Division and Forestry Division, Rome.

39. The two workshops included in the work programme, one for English- and the other for French-speaking countries, on environment statistics could not be organized due also to lack of financial resources.

III. PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

40. Annex III shows the Programme budget approved by the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991. It should be noted that the activities for this period will aim at responding to the continuing and growing need for reliable and up-to-date data in the African region. The three sub-programmes, namely statistical development, economic statistics and censuses and surveys, remain the same. However, the number of programme elements under each subprogramme has generally been reduced and in some cases the title of the programme element has changed.

41. Under subprogramme 1 - Statistical Development - the programme element which was previously entitled Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) has now become "Organizational training and dissemination activities in the field of statistics" and includes also outputs relating to technical publications such as the African social and economic indicators and the Bibliography of African statistical publications. The operational activities under this programme element include advisory service missions to member States on statistical organization. The Statistical Newsletter and the African Statistical Yearbook are included in programme element 1.1 - General aspects of co-ordination and development - and the Directory of Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa and the Directory of African statisticians in programme element 1.3 - Statistical Data Base Development. The Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa has been discontinued due to frequent delay in its publication. This will enable the results of studies to be dispatched to member States as they are available.

42. The number of programme elements under subprogramme 2 - Economic Statistics - has been reduced from 5 to 4. The former programme element on National Accounts Capability Programme (NACP) has now been merged with national accounts and finance. Price statistics has been combined with other economic statistics. Finally the title of the programme element on industrial statistics has been re-named "Industrial and energy statistics" in order to take into account the importance of statistics of new and renewable sources of energy.

43. The number of programme elements under subprogramme 3 - Censuses and Surveys -has been reduced from 4 to 2. The three former programme elements on demographic and social statistics, Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics and African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) have been merged into one single programme element entitled "Demographic, social and household statistics. The programme element on Environment Statistics remains the same.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

44. A brief account has been given in the preceding sections and Annexes II and III of the ECA statiscical activities during the biennium 1988-1989 and those planned for the biennium 1990-1991. In addition, a provisional work programme for the period 1992-1993 has been outlined in Annex IV.

45. In concluding, the secretariat wishes to draw the attention of the Joint Conference to a few issues which it had encountered during the implementation of the work programme.

46. Participants would recall that in the report to the fifth session of this Conference on programme implementation by the Statistics Division mention was made of the adverse effects that lack of funds was having on the rate of programme implementation. The position remains bleak. Even more, it is now being said that starting from the 1990-1991 biennium no more extrabudgetary resources will be available to implement regular budget activities. If this turns out to be the case, it will affect further the implementation of programmed activities.

47. Despite repeated requests and appeals by the secretariat, a number of member States do not send copies of their published statistical data to ECA. Latest available copies of such publications on some countries date back to the 1970s. In its effort to get official statistics, the secretariat has over the last five years or so been sending computer printouts of country data in the regional data base to countries so that the data could be corrected, revised, up-dated, etc. and returned to ECA to enable the latter to make the necessary corrections and/or up-dates. Only a few countries have returned the printouts. The secretariat wishes to express its appreciation to these countries for their co-operation and very valuable assistance.

48. Some countries did indicate that it had not been possible for them to amend data series which were presented in United States dollars, for example, some national accounts tables. The secretariat would like to use this opportunity to inform countries that the purpose for sending them statistical data in United States dollars is solely for information and inter-country comparisons. Countries are very welcome to correct and up-date such data where they can, otherwise no revision, corrections or up-dates to these tables are expected. What is anticipated is that countries will, if necessary, amend, revise and/or up-date the printouts which are in local currency and return them to ECA for entry into and maintenance of its data base.

49. Some member States which used to send their statistical publications to the secretariat free of charge have over the last couple of years been requesting that ECA takes out subscription to those publications. Since such subscription has not been taken these countries have ceased to send in their publications. In this connection, it should perhaps be mentioned that the secretariat sends its publications free of charge to all member States. Reference, for example, African Statistical Yearbook, Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa, Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Statistical Newsletter, etc. The secretariat very much wishes to take this opportunity to appeal to all member States to send their statistical publications to the secretariat on an exchange basis. To defray the cost of postage, the material could be sent through the good offices of the United Nations Resident Representative in the country.

50. The Conference is invited to make comments and suggestions on the implementation of ECA work programme in statistics during the biennium 1988-1989, the activities planned for the period 1990-1991 and the provisional work programme for 1992-1993. The Conference is also requested to react to the issues raised above and submit any other relevant issues for discussion.

ANNEX I

LIST OF PROFESSIONALS OF ECA STATISTICS DIVISION

I. REGULAR BUDGET STAFF

Office of the Chief

Chief of the Division	K.T.de Graft-Johnson (Ghana) a/

Statistical Development Section

Chief of Section	Robin Andrianasolo (Madagascar)
Chief, Demographic and Social Statistics	Rene Rakotobe (Madagascar)
Chief, Statistical Data Base	Vacant b/
Environment Statistician	Christine Kronauer (FRG)
Demographic Statistician	Anne-Marie Bakyono (Burkina Faso)
Associate Statistician (statistical data base)	Victoire Tankou (Cameroon) c/

Economic Statistics Section

Chief of Section	A.E. Cummings-Palmer (Sierra Leone)
Industrial Statistician	A.K. Amelewonou (Togo)
Statistician (national accounts)	Vacant
Statistician (trade)	E.F. Ching'anda (Malawi) d/
Associate statistician (prices)	A. Ngwako (Botswana) e/
Regional Adviser (national accounts)	Vacant f/

II. PROJECT STAFF

Regional Advisory Service in Demographic Statistics (RASDS)

Chief Technical Adviser (Demographic Statistics)	E.A. Colecraft (Ghana)
Regional Adviser (demographic statistics)	Hamady Sow (Mali)
Regional Adviser (data processing)	Jean-Marc Hie (Cameroon)
Regional Adviser (data processing)	Zewdie Gebeyehu (Ethiopia) g/
Regional Adviser (census cartography)	R.R. Tripathi (India)
Regional Adviser (census cartography)	O. Bocoum (Mali)
Regional Adviser (civil registration)	A. Karim Diop (Senegal)
Regional Adviser (sampling)	J.O. Onsembe (Kenya) g/

Statistical Development Programme for Africa (SDPA)

Chief Technical Adviser, Household Surveys Specialist	M. Chaari (Tunisia)
ILO Regional Adviser in Household Surveys, attached to ECA Statistics Division	R.J. Pember (Australia)
Regional Adviser (Household Survey Data Processing Specialist under a bilateral co-operation agreement between ECA and Federal Republic of Germany)	H. Girkes (FRG) h/

Specialist in national accounts	Luc Mbong-Mbong (Cameroon)
Statistical Training Adviser	K.K. Bockor (Togo)
Statistical Training Adviser/Household Survey Specialist	Vacant
Data Base Specialist	Vacant

UDEAC/DBP Project

Chief Technical Adviser	Jacob Tayo (Cameroon)
Expert	A. Mayouya (Congo)

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a/ Left on retirement at the end of November 1989.

b/ Post filled temporarily from 14 June 1988 to 13 May 1989.

c/ Post filled temporarily vacant for 17 months in 1988-1989.

d/ Transferred to this post in August 1989; post vacant for 19 months in 1988-1989.

e/ Post filled temporarily, vacant for 5 months in 1988-1989.

f/ Mr. K.C. Wang (United Kingdom) recruited for this post but can join only in January 1990.

g/ New posts

h/ Post abolished upon the expiration of the agreement with FRG in May 1988.

ANNEX II

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1988-1989

STATISTICS IN AFRICA

The activities under this programme during the biennium are expected to continue to address the lack of efficient and durable statistical systems that has seriously handicapped many African countries in the preparation, implemetnation and monitoring of their development plans. The problem has become even more urgent because of the Arican economic crisis and the data requirements of the Lagos Plan of Acrion and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

The programme will concentrate, as in the past, mainly on technical assistance designed to develop statistical information, to strengthen and expand the training of national statistical personnel and to build up national capabilities in the productin of timely basic economic statistics and national accounts, in the planning, conduct, processing and evaluation of national population and housing censuses and integrated household survey programmes and in the development and improvement of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection. Training of national statistical personnel will involve seminars and workshops designed to improve their knowledge and performance.

Efforts will also be made to develop further environment statistics and emphasis will continue to be placed on the development and maintenance of a regional information service through further development of the statistical data base. An integrated approach will be adopted in carrying out all these activities.

The three subprogrammes, their programme elements and the related output are described below:

Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

Programme elements:

1.1 General aspects of co-ordination and development

Output:

(i) Reports to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) statistical activities (1986-1987) and statistical work programme (1988-1989) (first quarter, 1988); and (b) review of statistical problems and priorities in the region (first quarter, 1988);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (first quarter, 1988);

(iii) Technical publications for government statiticians and planners: (a) Directory of African Statisticians (first quarter, 1988); (b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (fourth quarter, 1989); and (c) Statistical Newsletter (semi-annual).

Operational activities:

Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, on statistical organization.

1.2 Statistical data base development

Output

(i) Reports to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) the ECA statistical data base (first quarter, 1988); and (b) the survey of member States' requirements for developing statistical data bases (first quarter, 1988);

(ii) Technical publications: (a) print-outs of integrated social, demographic and economic data for government statisticians and planners (third quarter, 1988; third quarter, 1989); (b) Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa for government statisticians and planners (first quarter, 1988); and (c) statistical computing on micro-computers for government statisticians and planners (second quarter, 1989).

Operational activities:

(i) Support to a training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking government statisticians and planners, including reports on: (a) the uses of statistical software packages (second quarter, 1988) and (b) essential features of selected statistical software packages (second quarter, 1988);

(ii) Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, on the development and maintenance of national statistical data base.

1.3 Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA)

Output:

(i) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (first quarter, 1988);

(ii) Reports to the biennial meeting of Directors of STPA centres on: (a) evaluation of the use of guide syllabuses in the teaching programmes at STPA centres and national statistical offices (first quarter, 1989); (b) review of the overall staffing of statistical offices in Africa as a result of the ten years implementation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (fourth quarter, 1989); and (c) improvement of research activities at STPA training centres (first quarter, 1989);

(iii) Substantive servicing of the biennial meeting of Directors of STPA centres (fourth quarter, 1989);

(iv) Technical publications for Directors of STPA and Associate centres, government statisticians and planners on: (a) STPA News (two issues per year); (b) directory of STPA and Associate centres (second quarter, 1989); and (c) Directory of non-STPA centres (second quarter, 1989).

Operational activities:

(i) Support to the biennial seminar for trainers involved in middle-level/in-service training on review of national in-service or middle level statistical training programmes in Africa (fourth quarter, 1988);

(ii) Four advisory service missions to the centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) encountering difficulties (XB).

Subprogramme 2: Economic statistics

Programme elements:

2.1 National accounts, finance and prices

Output:

(i) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on improving the basic statistics required for planning on: (a) the use of census, survey and administrative data in national accounts (third quarter, 1988); (b) towards an integrated and systematic approach to the improvement and development of basic economic statistics (third quarter, 1988); (c) prices and price analysis in the framework of national accounts (third quarter, 1988);

(ii) Substantive servicing of an Intergovernmental Working Group on improving the basic statistics required for planning purposes (third quarter 1988);

(iii) Technical publications: computer print-outs for government statisticians and planners on: (a) national accounts (second quarter 1988; fourth quarter 1988; fourth quarter 1989); (b) sectoral deflators for African national accounts (fourth quarter 1988; fourth quarter 1989); (c) price statistics (second quarter 1988; fourth quarter 1988; second quarter 1989; fourth quarter 1989); (d) external transactions (third quarter 1988; third quarter 1989); (e) public sector statistics (third quarter 1988; third quarter 1989);

(iv) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on: (a) modern data-processing equipment as a tool to improve and facilitate compilation, publication and dissemination of price statistics (first quarter 1989); and (b) study on improvement of statistics on agriculture producer prices (second quarter 1989).

2.2. National Accounts Capability Programme

Operational activities:

(i) Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, in applying the United Nations System of National Accounts;

(ii) Four advisory service missions to member States, on request, on improving basic economic statistics as a prerequisite for further improvement and development of national accounts (NA).

2.3. International trade statistics

Output:

(i) Technical publications: computer print-outs on international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners (fourth quarter 1988; fourth quarter 1989);

(ii) Technical publications: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa: (a) series A: direction of total trade (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter 1989); and (b) series C summary tables (fourth quarter, 1988; fourtyn quarter 1989);

(iii) Technical publications on: (a) the ECOWA's system of international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners (first quarter, 1989); and (b) conceptual framework of international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners (second quarter, 1989).

Operational activities:

(i) Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, on improving the coverage, timeliness and methodology of intelrnational trade statistics;

(ii) Support to a training seminar on international trade statistics for English-speaking government statisticians (fourth quarter, 1989).

2.4 Industrial statistics

Output:

(i) Reports for the Working Group on Improvement of Data on Small-scale and Household Industries on: (a) the importance of statistics on small-scale and household industries for development planning in Africa (fourth quarter, 1989); (b) conceptual framework for the development of data on small-scale and household industries (fourth quarter, 1989); (c) organization and conduct of surveys on small-scale and household industries (fourth quarter, 1989); and (d) suggested approaches to the integration of data on small-scale and household industries;

(ii) Substantive servicing of a working group on improvement of data on small-scale and household industries (fourth quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publications: (a) computer printouts on general industrial statistics and commodity production in mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, including energy balance sheets for government statisticians and planners (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1989); and (b) statistics of new and renewable sources of energy for government statisticians and planners (first quarter, 1988).

Operational activities:

Four advisory service missions to member States, on request, on applying the international recommendations on industrial statistics, setting up integrated systems of industrial statistics and improving the coverage and timeliness of these data.

2.5 Other economic statistics

Output:

Technical publications: (a) African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1989); (b) African Social and Economic Indicators (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1989); (c) Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa (third quarter, 1988; third quarter, 1989); (d) road transport statistics for government statisticians and planners (second quarter, 1988); (e) review of statistics on youth and women in agriculture and distribution for print-outs on agricultural statistics for government statisticians and planners (fourth quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1989); (g) computer print-outs on transport and communications statistics for government statisticians and planners (third quarter, 1988; third quarter, 1989); and (h) computer print-ours on tourism statistics for government statisticians and planners (third quarter, 1988; third quarter, 1989).

Subprogramme 3. Censuses and surveys

Programme elements:

Output:

(i) Report to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Migration Statistics on: (a) review of data availability on internal migration statistics in Africa (third quarter, 1988); (b) review of data availability on international migratin statistics in Africa (third quarter, 1988); and (c) problems of interlinking migration statistics from different sources (third quarter, 1988);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Migration Statistics (fourth quarter, 1988);

(iii) Technical publications: (a) population registers in Africa and other more conventional soruces of demographic statistics for government statisticians and planners (second quarter, 1989); and (b) socio-economic indicators on women, derived from household survey data and other sources for government statisticians and planners (fourth quarter, 1989).

3.2 Support to technical co-operation project in Central Africa: Union douaniere et economique de l'Afrique centrale

Output:

Technical publication: methods and problems of data processing in the 1990 round of population and housing censuses of the member States of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, for government statisticians, demographers and planners (second quarter, 1988).

3.3 Regional advisory service in demographic statistics

Output:

(i) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Processing of Census, Civil Registration and Sample Survey Data on: (a) review of African practices in processing census, civil registration and sample survey data, second quarter, 1989); (b) integrated plans for data entry, editing, tabulation and analysis of data (second quarter, 1989); and (c) inventory of software packages available for statistical data processing in Africa (second quarter, 1989);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on processing of census, civil registration and sample survey data (third quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publication: registration of the nomadic population for government statisticians and planners (third quarter, 1988).

Operational activities:

Four advisory service missions to member States, on request, on the organization, planning and conduct of national population and housing censuses and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection (second quarter, 1988; fourth quarter, 1988; second quarter, 1989; fourth quarter, 1989).

3.4 African Household Survey Capability Programme

Output:

(i) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Household Surveys on: (a) progress report on the African household survey capability programme (second quarter, 1989); (b) income, expenditure and consumption surveys: the African experience (third quarter, 1989); and (c) labour force surveys: experiences and problems in surveys conducted in the 1980s in Africa (third quarter, 1989);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Household Surveys (fourth quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publication on the experience of the African region in household survey data analysis and applications for government statisticians and planners (third quarter, 1989).

Operational activities:

Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, on the preparation of survey programme documents, establishment of active survey operations and training and development of staff resources needed in establishing effective survey programmes.

3.5 Environment statistics

Output:

Technical publication: computer print-outs on environment statistics for government statisticians and planners (first quarter, 1988; third quarter 1988; first quarter, 1989; third quarter, 1989).

Operational activities:

(i) Two advisory service missions to member States, on request, on the establishment or improvement of environment statistics;

(ii) Support to: (a) the workshop for English-speaking countries on environment statistics (second quarter, 1988); and (b) the workshop for French-speaking countries on environment statistics (second quarter, 1989).

ANNEX III

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 1990-1991

STATISTICS IN AFRICA

During the biennium, the activities under this programme will respond to the continuing and growing need for reliable and up-to-date data. The programme will concentrate on technical assistance to improve data collection and processing of basic data and on strengthening national data bases, and on further development of the ECA statistical data base by completing work on the country profiles component. The three subprogrammes, their programme elements and related output over the biennium are described below:

Subprogramme 1: Statistical development

Programme elements:

1.1 General aspects of co-ordination and development

Output:

(i) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) ECA statistical activities (1988-1989), the statistical work programme (1990-1991) and the provisional work programme (1992-1993) (first quarter, 1990); (b) the use of statistical information for monitoring the implementation of development plans (first quarter, 1990); and (c) the statistical development programme for Africa (first quarter, 1990);

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Statistical Newsletter (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991); and (b) African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarter, 1990 and 1991).

1.2 Organizational, training and dissemination activities in the field of statistics

Output:

(i) Reports to directors of centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) on: (a) the progress made in the implementation of the special assistance programme to the Portuguese-speaking countries in the field of statistical training (fourth quarter, 1990); (b) the participation of women in statistical development in Africa (fourth quarter, 1990); and (c) specialized training and post-graduate studies at STPA centres (second quarter, 1991);

(ii) Technical publciations: (a) African Social and Economic Indicators (fourth quarter, 1990 and 1991); and (b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (fourth quarter, 1991).

Operational activities:

Advisory service missions to member States upon request, on statistical organization (second quarter, 1990 and 1991).

1.3 Statistical data base development

Output:

(i) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases (first quarter, 1990); and (b) guidelines on the acquisition of computer facilities, including micro-computers, and their supporting software for statistical computing (first quarter, 1990);

(ii) Technical publications: (a) integrated social, demographic, environmental and economic data (third quarter, 1990 and 1991); (b) Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa (first quarter, 1991); and (c) Directory of African Statisticians (first quarter, 1990).

Operational activities:

(a) Substantive servicing of and reports on a training workshop on the use of local area micro-computer networks for the development of statistical data bases for English-speaking government statisticians (fourth quarter, 1991); and (b) advisory service missions to member States, upon request, on the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases (fourth quarter, 1990; second quarter, 1991).

Subprogramme 2: Economic statistics

Programme elements:

2.1 National accounts and finance

Output:

(i) Computer printouts on (a) national accounts (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991); (b) sectoral deflators/inflators for national accounts (fourth quarter, 1990 and 1991); and (c) public sector statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991);

(ii) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental seminar on the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (first quarter 1990).

Operational activities:

(a) assistance to ECA member States to build up their national accounts capability under the project "Statistical Development Programme for Africa" (1990, 1991); and (b) advisory service missions to member States, upon request, on improving the availability and timeliness of basic economic statistics and applying the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (1990 and 1991).

2.2 External trade statistics

Output:

(i) Computer printouts on international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991);

(ii) Technical publications: (a) guidelines for compiling data on prices and the calculation of related index numbers (second quarter 1990); (b) requirements for setting up a comprehensive data base on inter-African trade statistics (second quarter 1991); and (c) Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa: (i) series A: direction of total trade (fourth quarter 1990 and 1991); and (ii) series C: summary tables (fourth quarter 1990 and 1991).

Operational activities:

Advisory service missions to member States, upon request, on improving the quality, coverage and methodology of foreign trade statistics (second quarter 1990 and 1991).

2.3 Industrial and energy statistics

Output:

(i) Computer printouts on industrial statistics, including energy balance sheets and construction statistics; (one each, fourth quarter 1990 and 1991);

(ii) Technical publication: construction statistics practices and methods in Africa (second quarter 1990);

(iii) Reports to the intergovernmental working group on statistics of new and renewable sources of energy on (a) availability in Africa of data on new and renewable sources of energy (fourth quarter, 1991); (b) needs and uses of statistics on new and renewable sources of energy (fourth quarter, 1991); nd (c) approaches to the compilation of biomass statistics in Africa (fourth quarter 1991).

Operational activities:

Advisory services missions to member States, upon request, on the application of international recommendations on industrial statistics and on improving the coverage and timeliness of the data (1990 and 1991).

2.4 Price statistics and other economic statistics

Output:

Computer printouts on (a) price statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991); (b) agricultural statistics (second quarter, 1990 and 1991); (c) transport and communications statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1990 and 1991); and (d) tourism statistics (third quarter, 1990 and 1991).

Intermediate activity: Preparation of the statistical annex to the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa (1990-1991).

Subprogramme 3: Censuses and surveys

Programme elements:

3.1 Demographic, social and household statistics

Output:

(i) Reports to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) support to the technical co-operation project in Central Africa: Central African Economic and Customs Union (UDEAC), (first quarter, 1990); and (b) the evaluation of the African Household Survey Capability Programme at the national and regional levels (first quarter, 1990);

(ii) Computer printouts on demographic and social statistics (second quarter, 1990 and 1991);

(iii) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on Civil Registration Systems and Vital Statistics on: (a) an overview of the current state and problems in the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted by the Working Group at its meetings held at Addis Ababa from 12 to 26 October 1985 (fourth quarter, 1990); (b) review of civil registration system and vital statistics collection in Africa (case studies) (fourth quarter, 1990); (c) registration of births and deaths among nomadic populations (second quarter, 1991);

(iv) Technical publications: (a) guidelines for the improvement of statistics on: (i) youth in Africa (third quarter, 1990) and (ii) disability in Africa (fourth quarter, 1991); (b) the use of sampling in African population censuses (third quarter, 1991); and (c) methods and problems of census data processing in Africa (second quarter, 1991).

3.2 Environment statistics

Output:

(i) Technical publications: (a) African Compendium on Environment Statistics (first quarter, 1990); and (b) guidelines on environment statistics in Africa (fourth quarter, 1991);

(ii) Printouts/diskettes on environment statistics (fourth quarter, 1990; third quarter, 1991);

(iii) Report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on the progress made in the field of environment statistics (first quarter, 1990).

Operational activities:

Advisory service missions to member States, upon request, for establishing or improving environment statistics and to assist national statistical offices in data base development and the utilization of micro-computer equipment with geographical information system capability.

ANNEX IV

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME NARRATIVE, 1992-1993

Subprogramme 26: Statistical Development in Africa

In accordance with the Medium-Term Plan for 1992-1997, the former programme "Statistics in Africa" becomes a subprogramme entitled "Statistical Development in Africa". The proposed programme elements and the related outputs are described below.

Programme elements:

1. General aspects of co-ordination and statistical data base development

Output:

(i) Report to the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on (a) ECA statistical activities (1990-1991) and future work programme (first quarter 1992); (b) vertical and horizontal collaboration with respect to data processing among the different organizational units of the national statistical offices (first quarter 1992); and (c) guidelines on the acquisition of computer facilities, including microcomputers, and their supporting software for statistical computing (first quarter 1992);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the seventh session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (first quarter 1992);

(iii) Technical publications: (a) integrated social, demographic, environmental and economic data (third quarter 1992 and 1993); (b) Statistical Newsletter (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993); (c) African Statistical Yearbook (fourth quarter 1992 and 1993); (d) Directory of Electronic Data Processing Centres and Experts in Africa (first quarter 1993); and (e) Directory of African Statisticians (second quarter 1992)

Operational activities: (a) Substantive servicing of a training workshop on the use of local area microcomputer networks for the development of statistical data bases, for French-speaking Government statisticians (fourth quarter 1993); and (b) advisory service missions to member States.

upon request, on the development and maintenance of national statistical data bases (fourth quarter, 1992; third quarter, 1993).

2. Organizational, training and dissemination activities in the field of statistics

Output:

(i) Reports to Directors of Centres participating in the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) on (a) assessment of the use of trained statisticians in Africa as a result of the 15 years implementation of STPA (third quarter 1993); and (b) statistical training programmes for Portuguese-speaking African countries: selected issues (fourth quarter 1993).

(ii) Technical publications: (a) African Social and Economic Indicators (fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993); and (b) Bibliography of African Statistical Publications (fourth quarter 1993).

Operational activities: (a) support to the biennial seminar for trainers involved in middle level/in-service statistical training programmes in Africa (fourth quarter 1992); and (b) advisory service missions to member States, upon request, on statistical organization (second quarter 1992 and 1993).

3. National accounts and finance

Output:

(i) Computer printouts on (a) national accounts (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993); (b) sectoral deflators/inflators for national accounts (fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993); and (c) public sector statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993).

(ii) Substantive servicing of an intergovernmental seminar on the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (second quarter 1992).

Operational activities: (a) Technical assistance to ECA member States aimed at improving the quality of their basic economic statistics needed for development policy formulation and planning, and reducing the data gaps and time lags (1992 and 1993); and (b) Advisory service missions to member States, upon request, on applying the revised United Nations System of National Accounts (second quarter, 1992 and 1993).

4. External trade, industrial and other economic statistics

Output

(i) Computer printouts on: (a) international trade statistics for government statisticians and planners (fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993); (b) industrial statistics including energy balance-sheets and construction statistics (one, fourth quarter of each year); and (c) price statistics (second and fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993).

(ii) Technical publications: (a) Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa, Series A: Direction of total trade (fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993); and Series C: Summary tables (fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993); Problems experienced by African countries in the field of international trade statistics and suggestions for remedial action (third quarter 1993).

(iii) Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental working group on International Trade Statistics in Africa (bilingual English- and French-speaking countries) (fourth quarter 1993).

(iv) Reports to the intergovernmental working group on International Trade Statistics in Africa (bilingual English and French-speaking countries) on:

(a) Review of the various types of indexes used in international trade statistics (fourth quarter, 1993).

(b) The linkage of international trade statistics with other economic statistics (fourth quarter, 1993)

(v) Substantive servicing of an Intergovernmental Working Group on improving the coverage, quality and timeliness of data on manufactring in Africa (fourth quarter, 1993).

(vi) Reports to the Intergovernmental Working Group on improving the coverage, quality and timeliness of data on manufacturing in Africa on:

(a) Assessment of the current state of data on manufacturing in the region (fourth quarter, 1993);

(b) Review of selected sources of statistical information on manufacturing (fourth quarter, 1993); and

(c) Conceptual framework for the development of data on manufacturing (fourth quarter, 1993).

(vii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on: (a) wholesale price indices of African countries: status, methods of compilation and analysis and some suggestions for their improvement; (b) Agriculture statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993); (c) Transport and communications statistics (second and fourth quarters, 1992 and 1993); and (d) tourism statistics (third quarter, 1992 and 1993).

Operational activities: (a) Advisory service missions to member States upon requests on improving the quality, coverage and methodology of international trade statistics (one mission, second and third quarters 1992 and 1993); and (b) Four advisory service missions to member States, on request, on setting up integrated systems of industrial and construction statistics and improving the coverage and timeliness of these data (second and fourth quarter, 1992 and 1993).

5. Demographic, social and household statistics

Output:

(i) Computer printouts on demographic and social statistics (one in 1992 and one in 1993);

(ii) Reports to and substantive servicing of an intergovernmental working group on social indicators framework of relevance to Africa (three reports and one meeting (second quarter 1993);

(iii) Technical publications for government statisticians and planners on (a) alternatives to population censuses in the provision of small areas statistics; (b) selected issues on concepts, definitions and classifications used in population censuses and demographic surveys in Africa; and (c) applications and analysis of household survey data of particular relevance to the African region.

Operational activities

Four advisory missions to member States, on request, on the organization, planning and conduct of population and housing censuses, household surveys and development of civil registration systems and vital statistics collection (second and fourth quarters 1992 and 1993).

6. Environment statistics

Output:

(i) Sales publication:

African Compendium on Environment Statistics (fourth quarter 1993).

(ii) Ad hoc technical information service:

Printouts/diskettes on environment statistics for government statisticians and planners (one set in the fourth quarter 1992; one in the second quarter 1993).

(iii) Technical publication: specification of Guidelines on Environment Statistics in Africa for government statisticians and planners: Environmental Accounting (fourth quarter 1993).

(iv) Progress Report on Environment Statistics to the Seventh Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers (first quarter 1992).

Intermediate activity:

(i) Report to and servicing of an Ad hoc Expert Group meeting on Specification of Guidelines on Environment Statistics for Africa: discussion of draft on Environmental Accounting (first quarter 1993).

Operational activity: (a) Four advisory services to member States upon request for establishing or improving environment statistics in national statistical offices and for data collection (two missions per year during the second and third quarters 1992 and 1993); (b) in the context of a project aimed at assisting 20 member States to establish environment statistics, advisory service missions by a consultant should be undertaken to assist national statistical offices in data base development and the utilization of micro-computer equipment with geographical information system (GIS) capability; and (c) pilot studies

on environmental accounting should be conducted in two member States (input into draft mentioned above).